



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building ■ (202) 225-4527

<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

October 25, 2001

## President Urges Congress to Finish Education Bill This Year

Appearing today at an event at Washington's Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, President Bush again affirmed that education reform remains the nation's "number one domestic agenda item" and urged that Congress complete action on the education bill before it adjourns this fall. Despite the September 11th attacks and the anthrax-related closures of the House and Senate office buildings, the leaders of the House-Senate education conference have continued to work on the bill and emphasized their commitment to sending the President a bill he can sign this year.

With the congressional complex now reopening gradually, the full House-Senate education conference is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, October 30th at 6:30 p.m. in Room SC-5 of the U.S. Capitol to take another step toward completion of a final education bill. In the meantime, the leaders of the conference -- Rep. John Boehner (R-OH), Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH), and Rep. George Miller (D-CA) -- met Wednesday and Thursday and continued to have productive discussions on the remaining issues.

The President has made it clear that he'd like to sign an education bill into law *this year*. The reforms in the *No Child Left Behind* proposal -- including higher standards and annual testing to be administered by states -- are vitally important initiatives in closing the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers. It is critical that these proposals be enacted into law sooner rather later. After 35 years of mediocrity in federal education policy, America's public school students deserve better.

### Message of the Day

**Education reform is America's number-one domestic agenda item.**

- *President Bush reaffirmed today that he expects Congress to complete action this year on the education reform bill.*
- *Despite the temporary shutdown of the House and Senate office buildings in the past week, congressional education leaders have continued work toward a final bill and made further progress.*
- *Students have waited 35 years for meaningful reform in federal education policy. They should not have to wait any longer.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The House-passed bill (H.R. 1) gives states and local schools additional flexibility to improve student performance by reducing red tape and consolidating duplicative federal programs.
- Washington has spent nearly \$130 billion since 1965 in an unsuccessful effort to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers.
- Title I programs for disadvantaged students received more than \$80 billion during the 1990s -- but reading scores for fourth graders have not budged.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"[O]ur number one domestic agenda item . . . is making sure every boy and girl in America gets a good education . . . We hope Congress gets the business done and gets us a good education bill."* -- President George W. Bush, October 25, 2001